



Fresh off the presses — your latest *Orange Wheel* snapshot!

Date: January 1, 2026

This edition gives you a quick, easy rundown of what's happening in our club — from CART Fund highlights and a reminder about Happy Bucks to fresh volunteer opportunities and a look at what's on the horizon with a few important Save the Dates. And I've included a Rotary Moment that truly lifted my spirits and is worth taking a minute to read.

It's everything you need to stay connected, stay engaged, and keep the Rotary spirit moving forward.

This newsletter is also available on our website at <https://orangerotaryva.org/> under *Club Links → Monthly Newsletter – Orange Wheel*, so you can stay up to date anytime, 24/7.

Check it out!

Our Rotary Club website just got a fresh new look! Take a moment to explore upcoming events, club news, volunteer opportunities and all the ways we're making a difference right here in Orange at <https://orangerotaryva.org/> It's the easiest way to stay up to date and see what's on the horizon.

And while you're browsing, hop over to our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/OrangeVARotary> If you haven't already, give us a "Like" and a "Follow"—and please invite your friends to do the same. A simple click from you helps our club reach more people, share our projects, and strengthen Rotary's presence in the community.

How to Get Involved

Don't forget—there are plenty of other ways to get involved through Rotary committees, like **Membership, Public Image, Scholarships, CART, Grants, Finance, Social,**

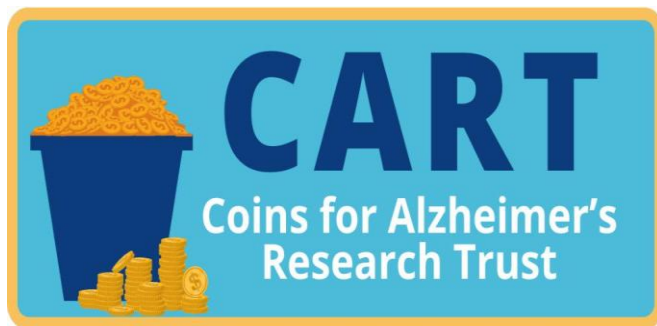
Programs, AgeWise Orange, Community First Response and Fundraising.

Wherever your passion lies, there's a place for you.

Not sure who our committee chairs are? Look below — this quick list makes it easy to know who's leading what and who to reach out to when you need something.

Corporate Sponsorship – Doug Ponton
AgeWise Orange – Jess Thompson & Joan McGregor
BBQ Fundraiser – Adrianna Cowan-Waddy
Membership – Doug Harris
Conservation – Jamie McConnell
Christmas Parade – Curtis Clark & Jess Thompson
Memorial Tree – Jamie McConnell
Grants – Martha Roby
Programs – Ellen Wessel
Public Image/Communication/CART – Joan McGregor
Community First Response – Deanne Marshall

Don't see a committee that aligns with your passion? Rotary is built on member ideas and initiative. If there's a cause you care deeply about, share it with the Club President and fellow Rotarians. Your passion could spark the creation of a new committee and a meaningful new way to serve.



The CART Fund Update – The Missing Piece is You! – Club goal \$2000.00

Our goal for this Rotary year is **\$2,000**, and so far, we've raised **\$397.81**. That means we have only donated 19.87% of our goal — and we have work to do.

But here's the good news: Small, steady contributions add up quickly when **everyone** participates.

Every dollar truly makes a difference. Drop your spare change into the Blue Bucket or make a quick online gift — and remember, **all CART donations are tax-deductible**.

When each of us pitches in, even just a little, reaching our \$2,000 goal becomes completely doable.

Let's show District 7610 how Orange does CART.

Did You Know?

You can support CART online through **DACdb** or at www.cartfund.org. Donate once or set up recurring gifts—just be sure to include **Orange Rotary** so we get credit. You can also give through the **Rotary Ignite app** → log in, swipe right to *Impact Partners*, and select **CART Fund**.

100% of all donations go directly to cutting-edge research. Thank you, Orange Rotarians, for being part of the mission to end Alzheimer's!

And don't forget, look for the Blue Buckets at the coffee/snack station or the front door tables to drop **your coins, bills or a check (made out to Rotary Club of Orange, Va)**

Happy Bucks

Don't forget to bring your Happy Bucks! Share something you're grateful for, drop a little in the smiley cup, and spread some joy.

As of January 1, 2026, we have \$111.79. Funds may be used at the Club's discretion to support CART, Scholarships, the Food Bank, and more.

We were proud to donate \$150.00 to the Orange County Toy Box, helping bring joy and a Merry Christmas to children right here in Orange—along with dental kits to support their health and smiles.

Rosco the Rotarian

If our famous paper plate with a face land in your hands, share a fun fact about yourself *and* why Rotary's special to you. Surprises, stories, and smiles—that's what Rosco loves most!

Supporting Local History & Student Scholarship

Our club donated **\$250** to the **Orange County Historical Society Education Committee**, in partnership with **Orange County Public Schools**, to support a student history essay program.

Students in **grades 4, 8, 11, and 12** are invited to write about a person or event that influenced the history of our nation and has a meaningful connection to **Orange County**. Essays will be judged, and the **top three entries at each grade level** will receive a monetary award. At the high school level, these awards will be given in the form of **scholarships**.

This initiative encourages historical inquiry, strong writing skills, and pride in our local heritage—investing in both education and the future of our students.

Corporate Sponsorship Committee

Our Corporate Sponsorship Committee has been hard at work building strong community partnerships. We are grateful to our **19 corporate sponsors**, whose combined support of **\$11,600** helps make our service projects possible throughout the year.

A complete list of our sponsors can be found on our website <https://orangerotaryva.org/>

AgeWise Committee

Supporting education, inclusion, and practical resources for older adults, caregivers, and individuals with disabilities in Orange County.

AgeWise Orange Committee Update

The AgeWise Committee held its first meeting on December 19, launching an active and productive start. In partnership with LOWLINC and Orange County TRIAD, the committee will host a Dementia Friendly Business Training on January 13 at 3pm, Orange Community Rm.

The committee's first community education program will be held on February 25, at 2pm, Orange Community Rm., featuring Deputy Ron Kesner, who will present on scam prevention and the services provided by the TRIAD program. All are welcome to attend, and we'd appreciate your help spreading the word throughout the community.

Different educational presentations will be offered every two months to support community awareness around aging, safety, dementia, and local resources. The AgeWise Committee will meet again on Friday, January 23 at 11:30 a.m. at Orange Baptist Church, and all are welcome to attend.

Several committee members will also participate in the “How Can We Help” community meeting on Thursday, January 15 at 12:00 p.m. at Orange Church of the Nazarene, the second in a series hosted by Pam Eldman. All are welcome to attend.

On The Horizon!

Save the Date!

January 6th – 8:00a – 9:00a Club Meeting

Service to America – David Reuther

Location: Orange Community R., Public Works Bldg

Save the Date!

January 13th – 3:00p – 4:00p - Dementia Friendly Business Training

Host: AgeWise Orange Committee, Triad and Aging Together

Location: Orange Community Rm., Public Works Bldg

Save the Date!

January 20th - 8:00a – 9:00a Club Meeting – Free Clinic – Food Pharmacy

Host: Martha Roby

Location: Free Clinic, 101 C Woodmark St., Orange

Save the Date!

January 21st – 9:30am – ROTC Parade Award

Host: Parade Committee

Location: Orange High School, 201 Selma Rd., Orange

SAVE the DATE!

January 23rd – 11:30a – 12:30a - Orange Baptist Church – Pine Room – 123 W Main St

Host: Jess Thompson, Joan McGregor & Barry Barr

AgeWise Orange – We have formed a new committee dedicated to identifying, supporting, and advocating for the needs of older adults and individuals with disabilities in our community.

We'd love to have you involved, it's the perfect time to come, listen, ask questions, and see how you can make an impact.

SAVE the DATE!

January 26th – 2:00pm – Board of Directors Meeting – Cowan Realty

Share Your News!

If you're involved in events, activities or volunteering, and you'd like the club to know about, please **send me the details**. I'd be happy to include them in our newsletter or on social media so we can celebrate and share everyone's contributions!

Joanlmcgregor0@gmail.com

Rotary Moment

As we look ahead to the 2026 Rotary year, this is a moment to pause and reflect on why we serve. Rotary is built on action, but meaningful service begins with awareness—seeing a need, listening to others, and choosing to get involved. Each new year offers a chance to strengthen our impact, work together more intentionally, and create positive change that lasts. Let 2026 be a year where our ideas turn into action and our service continues to make our community stronger.

Rotary THE FOUR-WAY TEST

Club of Orange, Va *Of the things we think, say or do:*

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?